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ABSTRACT

Intended for students taking the Grade 3 Language Arts Achievement Test in Alberta Canada, this booklet contains the reading portion of the test, which consists of 36 multiple choice questions related to the 10 stories, reports, poems, or short paragraphs provided in the booklet. The machine-readable answer sheet is included in the booklet. (EL)

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Grade 3 Language Arts

ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Part B: Receptive Language (Reading)

June 1985

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DIRECTIONS: (Only the statements on this page are to be read aloud by the teacher.)

1. **This test has 36 questions to answer and 10 stories, reports, poems, or short paragraphs to read.**
2. **Read the story and then answer the questions about that story. Use the story to help you answer the questions.**
3. **Choose the BEST answer and use an HB pencil to fill in the circle in front of that answer.**
4. **Mark only ONE answer for each question. Do not make any other marks on the page.**
5. **If you change an answer, erase your first mark completely.**

EXAMPLES

> **Rex was big.**
> **Rex was tall.**
> **He was taller than a giraffe.**
> **He was as tall as a house.**

What was Rex as tall as?

- ○ A tent
- ● A house
- ○ A truck
- ○ A giraffe

Which title would be BEST for the story?

- ○ House Pets
- ○ The Giraffe
- ○ My Friend
- ● Big Rex

The correct answers are "A house" and "Big Rex." The circle in front of the correct answer has been filled in.

6. **You will not be finished until you see the stop sign on page 15.**
7. **You have 45 minutes to complete this test.**

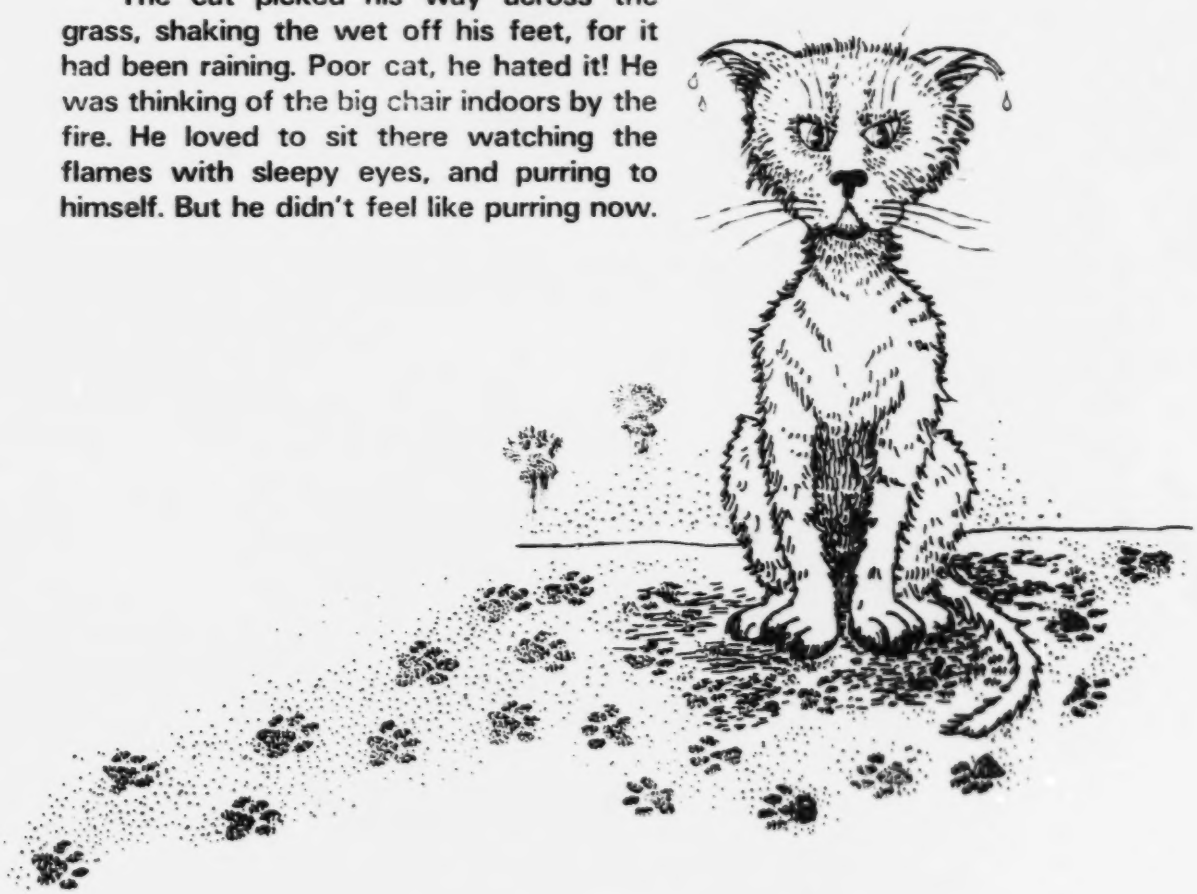
I. Read the following story and answer questions 1 to 5.

The cat was furious. Not a door or window of the house was open. He went to the front door and mewed. He went to the side door, which was almost never used, and mewed. Then he went to the back door. There he mewed loudest and longest.

He could hear Susannah walking around the kitchen, singing to herself like a bumblebee. When something happened to make her excited, she made up songs telling how she felt. The cat knew that Susannah heard him there at her door with his feet in the damp. He knew she was glad to keep him out.

If only the Captain were home, he would call, "Susannah! Ship ahoy! Lower the gangway to take on passengers!" But the Captain had taken his stick and gone to see his married daughter. Goodness knows when he'd be back.

The cat picked his way across the grass, shaking the wet off his feet, for it had been raining. Poor cat, he hated it! He was thinking of the big chair indoors by the fire. He loved to sit there watching the flames with sleepy eyes, and purring to himself. But he didn't feel like purring now.



1. **What does the underlined word <u>furious</u> mean?**

   - O Angry
   - O Fearful
   - O Unhappy
   - O Disappointed

2. **At how many doors did the cat mew?**

   - O One
   - O Two
   - O Three
   - O Four

3. **What does the story suggest about Susannah?**

   - O She dislikes cats.
   - O She loves the sea.
   - O She loves the rain.
   - O She dislikes the Captain.

4. **What will the captain MOST LIKELY do when he comes home?**

   - O He will marry Susannah.
   - O He will sing with Susannah.
   - O He will let the cat inside.
   - O He will leave the cat outside.

5. **Which of the following titles BEST fits the ideas in the story?**

   - O Ship Ahoy
   - O Captain's Holiday
   - O The Miserable Cat
   - O The Married Daughter

Go on to the next page

II. Read the following story and answer questions 6 to 9.

People often call the northland Blueberry Country, because that is where the biggest blueberries grow. Boys and girls who live in the north earn money every summer picking berries.

One day Penny went berry picking. She carried a can to hold the fruit and wore a hat to keep off the hot sun.

Penny walked miles and miles to find the biggest berries. Most of them went into her can but she popped quite a few into her mouth. When the can was finally full, she was tired out.

On the way home Penny ran into trouble. A brown bear saw her walking along. He took one sniff of the fruit and began to chase her. Penny knew that she was in great danger. She had to make up her mind in a hurry. There was only one thing she could do. Down went the can and out rolled the lovely big berries.

6. **When did Penny decide to go home?**

   - O When the can was full
   - O When she was in danger
   - O When the bear chased her
   - O When she was hot and thirsty

7. **Which word BEST describes Penny?**

   - O Brave
   - O Greedy
   - O Foolish
   - O Quick-thinking

8. **What will MOST LIKELY happen next?**

   - O Penny will trip over a stump.
   - O The bear will hurry to catch Penny.
   - O Penny will stay to eat the berries.
   - O The bear will stop to eat the berries.

9. **Which of the following titles BEST fits the main idea of the story?**

   - O Penny Spills the Berries
   - O A Summer Job
   - O Picking Blueberries
   - O Penny and the Bear

Go on to the next page

III. Read the following report and answer questions 10 to 14.

People have built lighthouses for many years. They have needed bright lights to warn ships wherever there are rocky shores.

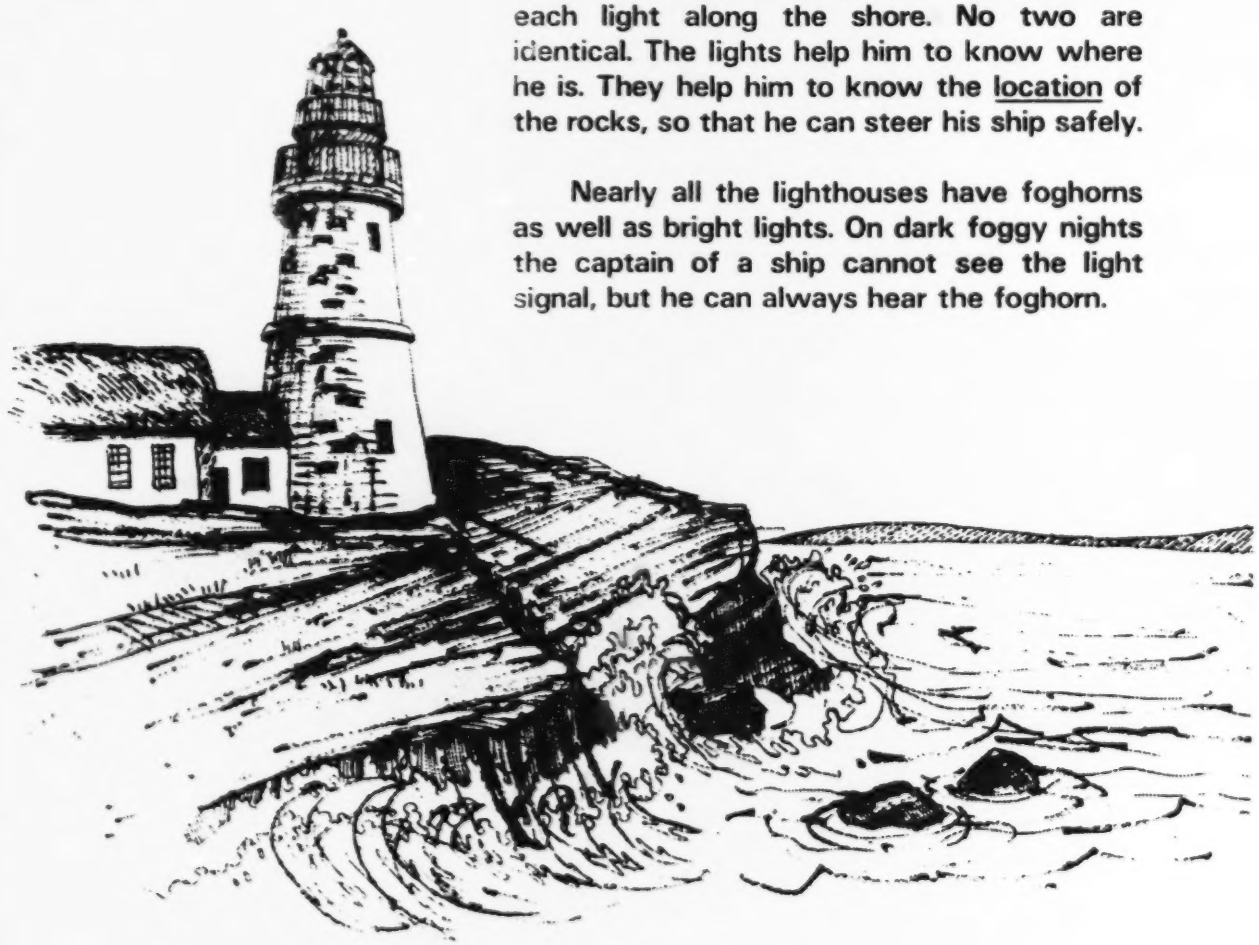
The first lighthouses were great towers with wood fires that burned brightly on top. Light from these fires helped the men on ships, but it was not so bright as the lights we have today.

Lighthouses now use many colors of light. Many lighthouses send out a strong white light. Others have red or green lights.

Some lights shine without any flashing. Others flash on and off – one second on, two seconds off all through the night. The passing ships see the lights.

The captain of a ship knows the signal of each light along the shore. No two are identical. The lights help him to know where he is. They help him to know the location of the rocks, so that he can steer his ship safely.

Nearly all the lighthouses have foghorns as well as bright lights. On dark foggy nights the captain of a ship cannot see the light signal, but he can always hear the foghorn.



10. **What does the underlined word location mean?**

- O Size
- O Place
- O Shape
- O Number

11. **Why does each lighthouse have a different light?**

- O It looks much nicer that way.
- O It is hard to get them all the same.
- O It helps captains know where they are.
- O It is more interesting for the captains.

12. **What would MOST LIKELY happen if there were no lighthouses?**

- O Ships would anchor at night.
- O Sea journeys would take longer.
- O Ships might crash on the rocks.
- O Sea journeys might be more exciting.

13. **What does the report suggest about seashores?**

- O They can be noisy.
- O They are always dark.
- O They are always foggy.
- O They can be dangerous.

14. **What is the main idea of the report?**

- O Lighthouses have noisy foghorns.
- O Lighthouses have flashing lights.
- O Lighthouses are built on high ground.
- O Lighthouses are needed for a ship's safety.

Go on to the next page

IV. Read the following story and answer questions 15 to 19.

Abadan was the King of Persia. And a good king he was. His country was at peace, and his people were happy.

Now Abadan loved to work with his hands. In time, he became a famous potter. The jars he made were beautiful. People came from all over the world to buy them.

Then the Arabs made war on Persia. They took Abadan away. No one knew where.

A year passed. There was no word about the king. Even his queen thought he was dead.

Then, one morning, a traveller came to the palace. He had rugs and jars to sell.

The queen came to see his goods. Suddenly, she cried out, "Look at that tall jar with the drawings on it! Where did you get it? Who made it?"

The traveller looked surprised. "It was made by a prisoner," he said. "He asked me to try to sell it in the palace."

The queen and her men looked carefully at the jar. They soon found what they were looking for. Hidden in one drawing was a tiny map.

15. **Abadan became a famous potter. What does a potter do?**

- O Works with clay
- O Sells glass jars
- O Works with glass
- O Fixes broken china

16. **For how long was Abadan missing?**

- O Over a year
- O Under a year
- O Over a month
- O Under a month

17. **What word BEST describes Abadan?**

- O Happy
- O Brave
- O Clever
- O Curious

18. **How will this story MOST LIKELY end?**

- O The queen and her men will go to war.
- O The queen will send a message to Abadan.
- O The queen and her men will rescue Abadan.
- O The queen will put the traveller in prison.

19. **Which of the following titles BEST fits the ideas in the story?**

- O The Traveller
- O The Secret Map
- O The Sad Potter
- O The Arabian War

Go on to the next page

V. Read the following poem and answer questions 20 to 25.

The Stray Cat

It's just an old alley cat
that has followed us all the way home.
It hasn't a star on its forehead,
or a silky satiny coat.

No proud tiger stripes, no dainty tread,
no elegant velvet throat.

It's a splotchy, blotchy,
city cat, not a pretty cat,
a rough little tough little bag of old bones.
"Beauty," we shall call you.
"Beauty, come in."

Eve Merriam

20. What does the underlined word <u>dainty</u> mean?

- O Deep
- O Round
- O Heavy
- O Gentle

21. What do the underlined words <u>bag of old bones</u> tell us about the cat?

- O It is ugly.
- O It is long.
- O It is round.
- O It is skinny.

22. What does the cat's coat look like?

- O Rough and tough
- O Smooth and shiny
- O Light and fluffy
- O Splotchy and blotchy

23. Why does the poet call the cat "Beauty"?

- O The poet likes the cat because it is pretty.
- O The poet likes the cat even though it is ugly.
- O The poet likes the cat because she wants a pet.
- O The poet likes the cat because it is a Siamese.

24. What will MOST LIKELY happen to the cat?

- O It will live with the poet.
- O It will look for some food.
- O It will follow someone else.
- O It will run back to the alley.

25. What does the poet feel for the cat?

- O Hope
- O Hate
- O Dislike
- O Respect

Go on to the next page

VI. Read the following story and answer questions 26 to 30.

One day an elf visited an old shoemaker in his shop. He was sitting in a chair nailing a shoe and looking very unhappy.

"You look very sad," said the elf. "Don't you enjoy your work?"

"I love shoemaking," answered the shoemaker, "and I am very proud of my work. Just look at those pretty red, green, and black shoes in the window. If I could sell them I would be happy, but no one will buy them and I need money for food."

"If that is all you need, I can soon fix that," said the elf. "Will you be happy if I fill one shoe with gold?"

"Oh yes, very happy!" cried the shoemaker.

"Then bring me that shoe," said the elf, pointing to a tiny red shoe in the front window.

The old shoemaker thought quickly and then said, "That is a fine shoe but I have a better one in my storeroom at the back."

He hurried into his storeroom and picked out a shoe that was four times the size of the <u>miniature</u> shoe.

He rushed back into his shop just in time to see the outside door closing.

26. Why was the shoemaker unhappy?

- O He was very lonely.
- O He did not enjoy his work.
- O He could not sell his shoes.
- O He made shoes that were too small.

27. What did the elf offer to give to the shoemaker?

- O Shoes
- O Nails
- O Money
- O Gold

28. What does the underlined word <u>miniature</u> mean?

- O Tiny
- O Large
- O Better
- O Different

29. What did the elf MOST LIKELY do after the shoemaker went into his storeroom?

- O He made another pair of shoes.
- O He left the shop to help someone else.
- O He took all the shoes from the window.
- O He brought the friends of the shoemaker into the shop.

30. Which title tells what the story is about?

- O The Disappointed Elf
- O The Greedy Shoemaker
- O The Storeroom
- O The Red Shoe

Go on to the next page

VII. Read the following story and answer questions 31 and 32.

> **Sam and Tom had been fighting. Sam got to school ten minutes after the bell had rung. His eye was blackened, his face and clothes were dirty, and his pants were torn. Tom was only a couple of minutes late. He was still neat and clean and he looked quite pleased with himself.**

31. What is the story about?

- ○ Tom was pleased with himself.
- ○ Tom had a fight with Sam.
- ○ Sam got to school later than Tom.
- ○ Sam's face was dirty.

32. Which of the following supports what the story is about?

- ○ Tom and Sam were boys.
- ○ Tom was pleased with himself.
- ○ Sam had a dirty face, torn trousers, and a black eye.
- ○ Tom was neat and clean.

VIII. Read the following story and answer question 33.

> **Joe was playing by the river. The river bank was steep and slippery. Joe kept sliding down and climbing up the river bank. He came to a very steep place with water seeping down.**

33. What will happen to Joe?

- ○ He will be late getting home.
- ○ He will have more fun.
- ○ He will slip into the river.
- ○ He will jump across the stream.

IX. Read the following story and answer questions 34 and 35.

> **Mary and Bob were in the same class. They were together a lot after class and liked the same things – movies, games and TV shows. They even liked the same candy. They were best friends.**

34. What is the story about?

- ○ Mary and Bob were together after class.
- ○ Mary and Bob were best friends.
- ○ Mary and Bob were in the same class.
- ○ Mary and Bob liked the same movies.

35. Which of the following supports the main idea?

- ○ Mary and Bob spent a lot of time together.
- ○ Mary and Bob liked the same TV shows.
- ○ Mary and Bob liked the same candy.
- ○ Mary and Bob were in the same class.

X. Read the following story and answer question 36.

> **The sky was gray and full of clouds. Loud rumbling thunder could be heard. The strong wind was blowing right at us.**

36. What will happen next?

- ○ There will be a rainstorm.
- ○ The wind will stop blowing.
- ○ The thunder will stop.
- ○ There will be a snowstorm.

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